

9-12-1958

## Resolution 1958-05-20 Retention of Wildlife Cover in Range Improvement Programs

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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### Recommended Citation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 1958-05-20 Retention of Wildlife Cover in Range Improvement Programs* (1958),  
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Whereas, it is evident from the continued growth since then in national income, leisure time, sporting license sales, and general outdoor recreation activity, that a decided change has occurred in the intensity of fishing and hunting activities and the contribution they make to the national economy;

Whereas, it has become essential to sound conservation planning and programming to chart these changes accurately at regular intervals;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requested to undertake a comparable national survey of fishing and hunting in 1960 at the latest.

Be it further resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners assembled in its 48th annual convention at Philadelphia, go on record as requesting that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service undertake a comparable national survey of fishing and hunting at intervals of not more than every ten (10) years, such surveys to be financed through federal aid appropriations, as was the case with the first such survey.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 5**

### **RETENTION OF WILDLIFE COVER IN RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS**

Whereas, a number of private, state and federal agencies are conducting or contemplate conducting, large-scale programs using public funds, to eradicate browse, shrub and tree growth using mechanical, chemical and other methods; and

Whereas, this procedure in limited areas appears to be beneficial to wildlife species in that it provides a beneficial edge, but the complete eradication of all shrub and tree growth over large expanses of terrain is generally detrimental to wildlife species, because it eliminates necessary food and cover; and

Whereas, reduction of the winter food supply for big game will reduce the carrying capacity for big game on the ranges treated and result in greater property damage to the landowners who advocate the eradication programs; and

Whereas, wildlife has great economic and recreation value to the nation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, By the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that federal and state agencies not approve such eradication programs on land under their jurisdiction, or approve funds for expenditure on private land, unless adequate provision has been made for the retention of food and cover in suitable proportion to meet the habitat requirements of native wildlife.

Be it further resolved, that the federal and state land management agencies, when contemplating such programs, confer in advance with state game departments as to the effect on wildlife resources and modify their plans to the end that damage to wildlife habitat will be held to a minimum.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 6**

### **STANDING ACTION COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES**

Whereas, one of the most critical problems of public concern facing the nation, both at a federal and state level, is the future management and use of water as a basic and vital resource to mankind; and

Whereas, it was agreed in a recent joint meeting of the current Wildlife Conservation Planning and National Water Policy Committees that too little progress has been made toward the attainment of the commendable objectives of Resolution No. 4 adopted in 1956; and

Whereas, there is increasing competition for greater use and varied water needs; and

Whereas, there is an alarming disregard for quality as exemplified in the repeated attempts to defeat adequate pollution laws both at a national and state level; and

Whereas, legislation already has been or will be introduced in the legislatures of the various states by special interest groups with complete disregard for the overall public good which would radically change the use pattern, the lawful rights of the riparian owners and the traditional philosophies of the several states; and

Whereas, due to the steady increase in the varied water uses, many conflicts of interests among water users will arise which must be settled in state courts, and said decisions may have a serious effect upon the entire structure of fish, wildlife and recreational benefits in the United States; and